

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TAGS: SCUL, GE
SUBJECT: DRESDEN ART EXHIBIT

REF: (A) BERLIN 2278, (B) BERLIN 2440

1. DURING PAO MEETING WITH MINCULT'S DR. TAUTZ AND FRAU NINDL APRIL 11, QUESTION OF INVITATIONS TO DRESDEN EXHIBIT NATIONAL GALLERY OPENING RAISED BY TAUTZ. HE SAID MINCULT HAS INFORMED GDR EMBASSY WASHINGTON OF "MINISTRY'S INTENTION TO NOMINATE" FOUR OFFICIALS AND ONE INTERPRETER TO ATTEND OPENING MAY 30. TAUTZ IDENTIFIED OFFICIALS AS: MINISTER OF CULTURE HOFFMANN, PRESIDENT OF GDR UNION OF GRAPHIC ARTS WILLI SITTE, DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF DRESDEN STATE ART COLLECTION KURT MANFRED BACHMANN, AND HIMSELF, HELMUT TAUTZ, CHIEF OF MINCULT'S INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS DEPARTMENT (AND CHIEF GDR NEGOTIATOR FOR DRESDEN ART EXHIBIT).

2. ASKED IF PAUL MELLON'S MARCH 23 LETTER TO MINISTER HOFFMANN HAD ALREADY BEEN RECEIVED, TAUTZ REPLIED THAT IT HAD, BUT HAD CREATED SLIGHT CONFUSION BY NOT INDICATING WHETHER IT REPRESENTED AN OFFICIAL INVITATION TO THE OPENING OR MERELY TO THE DINNER. FOLLOWING SOME DISCUSSION DURING WHICH TAUTZ WAS REMINDED THAT
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IN THE NEGOTIATIONS LAST YEAR, THE QUESTION OF INVITING AN OFFICIAL GDR DELEGATION HAD REMAINED UNRESOLVED BECAUSE OF THE DIFFERING STATUS OF THE THREE US MUSEUMS TAUTZ SAID HE WISHED TO STRESS THAT THE GDR WAS NOT NOW LOOKING FOR A WRITTEN OFFICIAL INVITATION FROM THE USG, BUT ONLY FOR CLARIFICATION OF THE MELLON LETTER. TAUTZ SAID--"AN OFFICIAL INVITATION FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF THE USA IS NOT

ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY, BUT IS OF COURSE WELCOME. HOWEVER, WE ARE SATISFIED WITH MR. MELLON'S LETTER, IF IT IS IN FACT THE INVITATION."

3. TAUTZ SAID THE DELEGATION PLANNED DEPART GDR ON MAY 28, ATTEND THE WASHINGTON OPENINGS, SPEND A FEW DAYS IN WASHINGTON VISITING OTHER MUSEUMS AND ART GALLERIES "AND ABSORBING THE CULTURAL LIFE OF YOUR CAPITAL," AND THEN VISITING SAN FRANCISCO AND NEW YORK. ALTHOUGH TAUTZ DID NOT PLAINLY SAY SO, HE STRONGLY IMPLIED THAT ASSISTANCE FROM THE USG WOULD BE DESIRABLE. HE CONFIRMED THAT ALL FOUR OFFICIALS HAVE NEVER BEEN TO THE US.

4. COMMENT: EMBASSY SUPPORTS MAKEUP OF PROPOSED GDR DELEGATION AND CONTINUES TO RECOMMEND AS PER REFTEL A, SPECIAL PROGRAM IN WASHINGTON, WITH ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES IN NEW YORK AND SAN FRANCISCO. BOLEN

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